Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11. (Cancelled)

Claim 12. (Currently Amended): A method for identifying a compound that regulates an HL promoter through an estrogen receptor, which method comprises detecting a change in the level of expression of a reporter [[gene]] in an assay system of claim 40 contacted with a test compound, wherein detection of a change in the level of expression of the reporter [[gene]] indicates that the test compound regulates the HL promoter through the estrogen receptor.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the test compound is an estrogen or an estrogen analog.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 12, wherein the level of reporter [[gene]] expression decreases when contacted with a test compound that regulates the HL promoter through the estrogen receptor.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the estrogen receptor is a human estrogen receptor.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 15, wherein the estrogen receptor is an ERα ~~or an ERβ~~.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the C/EBP transcription factor is selected from the group consisting of C/EBPα, C/EBPβ, C/EBPγ, C/EBPδ, and C/EBPε.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the HL promoter is positioned proximal to the 5' end of the human HL coding region.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein the HL promoter is the human HL promoter region from -1557 to +43, relative to the HL coding region start site.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 12, wherein the reporter [[gene]] encodes a protein selected from the group consisting of luciferase, green fluorescent protein, yellow fluorescent protein, β-galactosidase, chloramphenicol transferase, horseradish peroxidase, and alkaline phosphatase.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 20, wherein the reporter [[gene]] is luciferase.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of a yeast cell, an insect cell, and a mammalian cell.

Claim 23. (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 22, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of a HepG2 cell, a COS cell, a CHO cell, a MDCK cell, a Hela cell, a 3T3 cell, and a primary cell [[cells]].

Claim 24. (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 12, wherein the compound decreases the level of expression of the reporter [[gene]] through the estrogen receptor.

Claim 25. (Cancelled)

Claim 26. (Currently Amended): An isolated cell comprising

(i) a first exogenous nucleic acid molecule which encodes an estrogen receptor;

(ii) a second exogenous nucleic acid molecule which encodes a CCAAT/enhancer-binding protein (C/EBP) transcription factor; and

(iii) a reporter [[gene]] operatively associated with a hepatic lipase (HL) promoter.

Claim 27. (Previously Presented): The cell of claim 26, wherein the estrogen receptor is a human estrogen receptor.

Claim 28. (Currently Amended): The cell of claim 27, wherein the estrogen receptor is an ERα ~~or an ERβ~~.

Claim 29. (Previously Presented): The cell of claim 26, wherein the C/EBP transcription factor is selected from the group consisting of C/EBPα, C/EBPβ, C/EBPγ, C/EBPδ, and C/EBPε.

Claim 30. (Currently Amended): The cell of claim 26, wherein the estrogen receptor, the C/EBP transcription factor, and the reporter [[gene]] operatively associated with a hepatic lipase promoter are expressed from separate vectors ~~or the same vector~~.

Claim 31. (Previously Presented): The cell of claim 26, wherein the hepatic lipase promoter is positioned proximal to the 5′ end of human hepatic lipase coding region.

Claim 32. (Previously Presented): The cell of claim 26, wherein the hepatic lipase promoter comprises the human hepatic lipase promoter region from –1557 to +43, relative to the human hepatic lipase coding region start site.

Claim 33. (Currently Amended): The cell of claim 26, wherein the reporter [[gene]] encodes a protein selected from the group consisting of luciferase, green fluorescent protein, yellow

fluorescent protein, β-galactosidase, chloramphenicol transferase, horseradish peroxidase, and alkaline phosphatase.

Claim 34. (Currently Amended): The cell of claim 33, wherein the reporter [[gene]] is luciferase.

Claim 35. (Previously Presented): The cell of claim 26, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of a yeast cell, an insect cell, and a mammalian cell.

Claim 36. (Currently Amended): The mammalian cell of claim [[35]] 47, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of a human cell, a rat cell, a monkey cell, a dog cell, and a hamster cell.

Claim 37. (Currently Amended): The cell of claim 26, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of a HepG2 cell, a COS cell, a CHO cell, a MDCK cell, a Hela cell, a 3T3 cell, and a primary cell [[cells]].

Claim 38. (Previously Presented): The cell of claim 26, wherein the first exogenous nucleic acid molecule is inserted into an expression vector.

Claim 39. (Previously Presented): The cell of claim 38, wherein the expression vector is selected from the group consisting of pCR1, pBR322, pMal-C2, pET, pGEX, pMB9, RP4, pYES2, pYESHisA, pYESHisB, pYES HisC, pcDNA3, and viral vectors.

Claim 40. (Currently Amended): An assay system for compounds that modulate hepatic lipase promoter activity comprising a population of cells of claim 26, wherein the number of cells in a single assay system is sufficient to express a detectable amount of the protein encoded by the reporter [[gene]] under conditions of maximum reporter [[gene]] expression.

Claim 41. (Previously Presented): The cell of claim 26, wherein the cell is a hepatocarcinoma cell.

Claim 42. (Previously Presented): The cell of claim 26, wherein the second exogenous nucleic acid molecule is inserted into an expression vector.

Claim 43. (New): The cell of claim 42, wherein the expression vector is selected from the group consisting of pCR1, pBR322, pMal-C2, pET, pGEX, pMB9, RP4, pYES2, pYESHisA, pYESHisB, pYES HisC, pcDNA3, and viral vectors.

Claim 44. (New): The cell of claim 27, wherein the estrogen receptor is an ERβ.

Claim 45. (New): The cell of claim 29, wherein the C/EBP transcription factor is C/EBPα.

Claim 46. (New): The cell of claim 26, wherein the estrogen receptor, the C/EBP transcription factor, and the reporter operatively associated with a hepatic lipase promoter are expressed from the same vector.

Claim 47. (New): The cell of claim 35, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell.

Claim 48. (New): The cell of claim 37, wherein the cell is a HepG2 cell.

Claim 49. (New): The method according to claim 15, wherein the estrogen receptor is an ERβ.

Claim 50. (New): The method according to claim 17, wherein the C/EBP transcription factor is C/EBPα.

Claim 51. (New): The method according to claim 22, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell.

Claim 52. (New): The method according to claim 12, wherein the cell is a hepatocarcinoma cell.

Claim 53. (New): The method according to claim 23, wherein the cell is a HepG2 cell.

Claim 54. (New): The cell of claim 39, wherein the expression vector is a viral vector.

Claim 55. (New): The cell of claim 54, wherein the viral vector is selected from the group consisting of a lentivirus vector, a retrovirus vector, a herpes virus vector, an adenovirus vector, an adeno-associated virus vector, a vaccinia virus vector, and a baculovirus vector.

Claim 56. (New): The cell of claim 43, wherein the expression vector is a viral vector.

Claim 57. (New): The cell of claim 56, wherein the viral vector is selected from the group consisting of a lentivirus vector, a retrovirus vector, a herpes virus vector, an adenovirus vector, an adeno-associated virus vector, a vaccinia virus vector, and a baculovirus vector.